

Rosenburg Home- 1306 Ave. ~~D~~ *Market*
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-230

HABS
TEX.

84- GALV

13-

**ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...**

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District # 6 Tex2-

Historic American Buildings Survey
Birdsall P. Briscoe, District Officer
4301 Main Street, Houston, Texas

ROSENBERG HOME
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

HABS
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24 - GALV

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ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Owner McLeash Heirs

Date of Erection 1859

Architect

Builder Owner, Henry Rosenberg, Philanthropist.

Present Condition Good, though surroundings are run down.

Number of Stories Two.

Materials of Construction Brick.

Other Existing Records Interior very handsome. Fireplaces of Italian marble with keystone of fruit and flowers in marble.

Additional Data: Ceiling medallions and moulding of grapes and corinthian leaves. Double parlors separated by white enamel corinthian columns. Windows to floor with lower panels opening out like doors. Drapery caps over windows of rosewood and gold leaf stipling. Full length mirrors at each end of parlors with rose wood and gold leaf frames. Walnut stairway with burl walnut posts. Ornamental grill work over all doors to hold vases and pots of flowers.

Carriage house very fine one. Converted into complete club house equipped for elaborate entertaining for use of United Daughters of Confederacy, of which Mrs. Rosenberg was an ardent member. This was a gift from Mrs. Rosenberg and was used during her lifetime.

The Rosenberg Home is a transition house where the late Georgian work shook hands with early Jig Saw. The photographs hardly do justice, since the general impression of the place is most pleasing. This place represents a period in American architecture that is so universal, that even if we don't like it, it can not be overlooked. This, I think, is one of the best transition houses in this area. It was built by one of Galveston's most liberal citizens. His benefactions to the City of Galveston included a public library, a memorial to the four principal events of the Texas War of Independence and the endowment of an orphanage, and many other gifts that represent Mr. Rosenberg's love for his city and his kindness to humanity.

HW. Sept 1936

Addendum to:

Henry Rosenberg House

1306 Market Street

Galveston

Galveston County

Texas

as recorded in 1936, 1937

HABS No. TX-260

HABS

TEX

84-GALV,

13-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS
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84-GALV,
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HENRY ROSENBERG HOUSE

An Addendum to:
Henry Rosenberg House
1306 Market Street (Avenue D.)
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas.

Location: 1306 Market Street, Galveston, Galveston County,
Texas.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Hyman Levine.

Significance: Henry Rosenberg was a leading merchant and philanthropist of Galveston, a man of great civic enterprise and a great benefactor to the city. His home is representative of the transition from the Greek Revival to the Victorian period, most notably, the Italianate style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Built 1859-60. This principal biography of Rosenberg's life states that it was erected in 1859 and occupied on January 1, 1860. A full set of architect's drawings have been located but they are undated and unsigned.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original plan and construction: HABS drawings were copied from original plans of the dwelling.
4. Alterations and additions: Located records note the expenditure of \$3,500 in the year 1882. On the basis of this information coupled with an investigation of the house it appears that the external changes, notably the decorative features such as the front porch and the jig-saw work, were added during a renovation in 1882.

After 1937, the house was again altered. Most of the exterior decoration has been removed and all windows covered with exterior metal louvers.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Henry Rosenberg was born in Bilten, Glorus Canton, Switzerland, on June 22, 1824. His early education was meagre and he was apprenticed at an early age to learn the trade of fabric printing. At the age of 18 he entered the mercantile establishment of the Hessley family. There he was influenced by the owner's son, John Hessley, to emigrate to Galveston and work in his employ there.

When Rosenberg arrived in 1843 he was not able to converse in the English language but within three years he had so progressed his abilities that he was able to buy out Hessley and establish his own mercantile firm.

Although his firm soon controlled the dry goods trade of south Texas, Rosenberg sought new enterprises and in 1874 he established the Rosenberg Bank which became a very successful venture. Other activities engaged him at this time. He was organizer, director and president during 1875-78 of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad Company during which time the railroad laid the first fifty miles of track. He was also a director and vice-president of the Galveston Wharf Company for three years and in 1871-72 and 1885-87 he served the city as an alderman.

Rosenberg's civic spirit resulted in numerous benefits for Galveston beginning with his gift of the Rosenberg Free School at the cost of \$80,000 in 1888.

At his death in 1893 the provisions of his will left bequests of \$30,000 to the Protestant Orphans Home; \$30,000 to Grace Episcopal Church; \$50,000 to the Women's Home; \$65,000 to the Y. M. C. A.; \$50,000 for a Texas Heroes' Monument (sculpted by Louis Amatier, Washington, D.C.); and \$30,000 for seventeen public drinking and watering fountains. The city of Galveston was made residuary legatee of the estate with about \$500,000 devoted to the founding and maintenance of a free circulating library.

C. Bibliography:

1. Secondary and published sources:

Bradley, Anne. Historic Galveston Homes. 1951, p. 20

Galveston News. May 13, 1893.

John, F.W. History of Texas and Texans. 1914, p. 2262.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director
Galveston Architecture Inventory
March 23, 1967.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is a square two story brick structure with a low pitched hipped roof. At present the only significant feature is a small entrance porch; the original decorative features have been removed.
2. Condition of fabric: Good; some cracks in the stucco of the walls.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house is 42 feet wide and 36 feet 7 inches in depth; the attached kitchen is 22 feet by 26 feet 6 inches. Ceiling height of first floor is 11'-6"; that of the second floor is 10'-8".
2. Foundations: Probably brick grade beam.
3. Wall construction: Brick stuccoed to resemble stone.
4. Structural system: Load bearing masonry exterior walls and interior stud partitions. All openings flat with lintels.
5. Porches: A small entrance porch; one story in height, is attached to the front facade. Two chamfered wooden pillars on pedestals support the extremities. A wooden balustrade is provided on top with turned balusters and paneled end posts. Two side porches flank the kitchen in the rear.

Wings of the porch originally extended across the full facade supported by chamfered pillars with an elaborate jig-saw railing and brackets.

6. Chimneys: There are four major chimneys - two are located in the east exterior wall; one in the front room, one in the rear. A third is located in the west wall of the west room. The fourth is located on the back wall of the kitchen.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance has been changed in recent years. There was originally a typical Greek Revival doorway with glass transom and side lights.
 - b. Windows: Windows on the original plans were to be casements; four lights per side. Those on the kitchen wing were to be six-over-six light (upper 12" x 15"; lower 12" x 16"). Present windows are two-over-two light double-hung and covered with exterior adjustable aluminum blinds.
8. Roof: The original roof was a standing seam metal hipped structure with a square lantern on top. The lantern has since been removed. There was a paneled cornice with small modillions supporting the eaves.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The plan of the house is typical of the Greek Revival style; a central hallway flanked by rooms at either side. In this house there is a small square entrance vestibule that opens onto the central stairhall. To the right was found a front sitting room that is connected by double sliding doors to a rear dining room. On the left was a large parlor that occupied the whole of the west side except for a small store room at the rear. A kitchen was attached at the rear of the house and centered on the facade.

The upper floor was divided into four symmetrical chambers arranged around the central stairhall. Each had a fireplace for heating and a small shallow closet. The space over the kitchen was divided into a large chamber; a small closet; hall and stairwell and a bathroom.

2. Stairway: The stairway is located on the east wall of the central stair hall. It has a fine octagonal newel post. A rear stair, quarter-turn with winders, was located in the kitchen.
3. Floor: Doors appear to be original. They have six molded panels.
4. Trim: Door and window trim is wood; typical good classical moldings. Baseboards are wood and are capped with molded trim. A molded leaf design cornice is found in the entrance vestibule and stairhall.
5. Hardware: Modern mortice locks.

6. Mechanical equipment:

- b. Lighting: Electricity- modern.
- c. Heating: Natural gas - modern.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The house occupies lot 8, Block 553; th northwest corner of Market and Thirteenth Streets and faces south.
2. Enclosure: Cast iron fence across front of property is particularly notable and largely intact.
3. Outbuilding: Brick two story carriage house is located at rear of property. Now used for apartments.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director
Galveston Architecture Inventory
March 25, 1967.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Galveston Survey was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation and the Galveston Historical Foundation Inc.; and developed under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1967 under the direction of Professor Melvin M. Rotsch, project supervisor (Texas A&M), John C. Garner, Jr., architect (University of Texas), by student architects Michael D. Casey (University of Houston), Larry D. Johnston (Kansas State University), James E. Murphy (Texas A&M), and Gerald R. Rapp (Texas A&M). The historical data was written by John C. Garner, Jr., acting as the Director of the Galveston Architecture Inventory. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Allen Stross in the summer of 1967.